Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /109 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5215
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, PORG, CY, TU

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CYPRUS

REF: USUN 2899

- 1. WESTERN AND NON-ALIGNED EFFORTS TO WORK OUT AN AGREED TEXT FOR A RESOLUTION WERE UPSET LATE SEPTEMBER 7 WHEN BENIN, MAURITIUS AND PANAMA FORMALLY TABLED A DRAFT OF THEIR OWN. (TEXT SEPTEL) BENIN TEXT IS THE BARTON-JAIPAL DRAFT OF SEPTEMBER 6 (SEE REFTEL) WITH AMENDMENTS PUT FORWARD BY CYPRIOT FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES.
- 2. IF WESTERN FIVE ALL ABSTAIN AND ARE JOINED BY PAKISTAN AND LIBYA, THIS RESOLUTION WOULD FAIL TO GAIN THE NECESSARY NINE VOTES FOR ADOPTION, HOWEVER, UNITY OF WESTERN FIVE WILL BE SEVERELY STRAINED. CANADIANS WILL BE TEMPTED TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION WHICH IS CHANGED IN ONLY FAIRLY MINOR WAYS FROM THEIR ORIGINAL DRAFT. FRENCH ARE UNINSTRUCTED, BUT ARE INCLINED TO VOTE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN FAVOR OF BENIN RESOLUTION. ON A STRAIGHT UP OR DOWN TEST, WE CANNOT PREDICT HOW BRITISH WOULD VOTE.

3. BRITISH MISSION IS CONSIDERING PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY WHICH WOULD INVOLVE WESTERN FIVE PUTTING FORWARD THEIR OWN RESOLUTION (DEPARTMENT TRASMITTING WESTERN WORKING PAPER SEPARATELY) AS ALTERNATIVE TO BENIN RESOLUTION. BRITISH BELIEVED THAT SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE MIGHT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INDUCEMENT TO CANADIANS AND FRENCH TO ABSTAIN ON BENIN RESOLUTION. MAIN ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF SUCH A STRATEGY IS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING WESTERN UNITY. THIS IS A COMPELLING CONSIDERATION FOR THE FIVE AMBASSADORS HERE IN VIEW OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING--JOINTLY WE HOPE--ON AFRICA AND OTHER AREAS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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